

# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

RELATIVE TO THE

## TREATMENT OF THE PATIENTS

IN THE

### CRIMINAL WING

OF

## BETHLEM HOSPITAL.

EXTRACTED FROM THE JOURNALS.

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PRINTED FOR THE GOVERNORS.

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LONDON:

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1841.

BRIDEWELL AND  
BETHLEM HOSPITALS.

} *At a Court of Governors held at the  
Hospital of Bridewell, on Monday,  
the 25th day of January, 1841.*

It was moved by T. T. RIGBY Esq, and seconded by Sir  
RICHARD PLUMPTRE GLYN, Bart, and RESOLVED UNA-  
NIMOUSLY,

That, having heard read the Report of Dr. Mayo and  
Dr. Southey, with the Correspondence between the Right  
Honourable the Marquess of Normanby and the President,  
Sir Peter Laurie, the special thanks of this Court be given  
to the President, Treasurer, and Committee, for their ex-  
emplary attention to the affairs of the Hospitals; and more  
particularly for their excellent general management of Beth-  
lem Hospital.

AND IT WAS ORDERED,

That the Minutes of the Proceedings, with all the  
Correspondence relative to the Treatment of the Patients  
in the Criminal Wing of Bethlem Hospital, be printed  
and delivered to the Governors.

(By Order)

JOHN POYNTER,  
Clerk.

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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS,

&c.

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BRIDEWELL AND  
BETHLEM HOSPITALS. }

*At a Special Committee held at  
Bethlem Hospital on Friday, the  
30th day of November, 1840.*

THE PRESIDENT stated that he had directed this Committee to be specially summoned for the purpose of considering the circumstances relative to the treatment of John Darby Shelley, when the following Resolutions of the Bethlem Sub-Committee of the 30th October, and 6th of November, 1840, and the Report of Dr. Monro, Sir A. Morison, M.D., and Mr. Thomas, were read.

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BETHLEM SUB- }  
COMMITTEE. }

*Friday, 30th October, 1840.*

IT having been reported to this Sub-Committee that the Chairman of the Visiting Justices of the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum had stated at the Court of Quarter Sessions, that a patient named John Darby Shelley had been put into close confinement in Bethlem Hospital, in consequence of having struck the Steward;—Resolved, That

a Report be made to this Sub-Committee as to the confinement and restraint to which John Darby Shelley has been subjected since he has been in this Hospital, specifying the time and nature of such confinement and restraint.

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BETHLEM SUB-  
COMMITTEE. }

*Friday, 6th November, 1840.*

Read a Report from the Physicians of Bethlem Hospital and the Apothecary, as to the restraint of John Darby Shelley, as directed by the last Sub-Committee, and which was ordered to be entered upon the Minutes, and is as follows:—

“In obedience to the instructions of the Sub-Committee of the 30th ult., we hasten to lay before you our Report respecting the ‘confinement and restraint to which ‘John Darby Shelley has been subjected since he has been ‘in the Hospital.’

“He has been subject, in fact, to no restraint whatever, with the exception of a strait-waistcoat for five or ten minutes, daily, at such times as his food has been administered to him by the resident medical officer; and this is in conformity with the best principles, being intended simply for his own protection, lest, in so delicate an operation, any injury should arise from his own resistance. He has very pertinaciously refused his food, which is no uncommon symptom among lunatics, and the necessary interference of feeding is simply to preserve the patient’s life, and the slight restraint at the moment is merely to render the process of feeding secure.

“With reference to the second head of confinement, during a period of ten days of his residence, it has been

found necessary occasionally, in consequence of his great violence and noisy clamour, and unmeaning shouts of murder, to place him in his bed-room, and sometimes the key has been turned upon him there for half an hour at a time, and occasionally, perhaps, for an hour. With this exception, he has never been confined *at all*, but has had the same range which his fellow patients enjoy; and this has not taken place during the last three weeks in any instance. He is a very dangerous and malevolent patient, and great watchfulness is necessary to prevent mischief. He was never placed under any sort of chastisement or restraint for attempting to strike the Steward, and it is universally adopted as a principle in the Hospital, that the patients, being irresponsible, are never to be treated as culprits."

"Your obedient servants,

"EDWARD THOMAS MONRO, M.D.

"ALEXANDER MORISON, M.D.

"JOHN THOMAS."

*4th November, 1840.*

A statement having been made by Mr. Serjeant Adams, a Governor of this Hospital, that an improper restraint had been placed upon John Darby Shelley, a criminal lunatic;—Resolved, That a letter be addressed to the Secretary of State, as to the restraint so alleged to have been imposed upon the said John Darby Shelley, requesting the authorities of the Home Office will cause an inquiry to be made as to whether the facts alleged are correct.

A Report having been made that John Darby Shelley had been placed in improper restraint;—Resolved, That the circumstances be inquired into by a House Committee to be specially summoned for such purpose, to meet at Bethlem Hospital on Friday next, at twelve o'clock pre-

cisely ; and the Clerk was directed to write to Mr. Serjeant Adams and Mr. Dyer, and request their attendance upon the occasion.

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When Mr. Serjeant Adams having addressed the Committee, and the keepers having been examined, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That this Committee, having investigated the circumstances relative to the treatment of John Darby Shelley, considers that the statement made by the Chairman of the Visiting Justices at the Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, and confirmed by Mr. Serjeant Adams at the last Middlesex Quarter Sessions on Thursday, the 29th October, has arisen from misconception, and that there is no foundation whatever for such statement.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That this Committee fully approves the Report of the medical officers as to the restraint imposed upon John Darby Shelley ; and that a copy thereof, and of the Resolutions passed this day, be sent to the Secretary of State, and inserted in the usual Morning and Evening Papers.

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BRIDEWELL AND  
BETHLEM HOSPITALS. }

*At a Special Committee held at the  
Hospital of Bethlem on Friday, the  
4th day of December, 1840.*

The two physicians, namely, DR. MAYO and DR. SOUTHEY, sent by the Government to inquire into the mode of treatment pursued in the Criminal Lunatic Wing, also attended the Committee, with Mr. Serjeant Adams and M. D. Hill, Esq., Queen's Counsel, who attended on the part of Mr. Serjeant Adams.

The proceedings were taken in short-hand by Mr. Gurney, who attended by order of the Secretary of State.

A letter was read from the TREASURER, expressing his regret at being prevented by indisposition from attending the Committee.

THE PRESIDENT stated that he had directed this Committee to be specially summoned for the purpose of meeting Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey, when the following letters were read.

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COPY OF LETTER FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOSPITALS TO  
THE MARQUESS OF NORMANBY, SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

*Bridewell Hospital, 6th November, 1840.*

MY LORD,

A communication has been made to the President, Treasurer, and Committee of the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, that Mr. Serjeant Adams (a Governor of that Hospital, and Chairman of the Middlesex and Westminster Quarter Sessions) had, at a meeting of the Magistrates of the county, openly stated that a criminal patient, named John Darby Shelley, placed in the Hospital by the Secretary of State, and paid for by the Government, had been subjected to harsh and improper restraint ; but such statement not being true, and being calculated to bring discredit upon the management of the Hospital, I am directed by the Committee of Governors to bring the subject before your Lordship's attention, with the statement which has been made, in order that your Lordship may inquire into the accuracy of this charge, by investigating the treatment not only of John Darby Shelley, but of all the criminal patients in the Hospital. I am further directed to add, that the Committee are most anxious to afford every facility

for making the investigation that your Lordship may direct or wish.

I am, my Lord,  
Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,  
JOHN POYNTER, *Clerk.*

*The Most Honourable  
The Marquess of Normanby,  
&c. &c. &c.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM THE CLERK TO THE HONOURABLE  
FOX MAULE.

*Bridewell Hospital, 16th November, 1840.*

SIR,

I am directed by the President and Treasurer of Bethlem Hospital to confirm my letter to Lord Normanby, of the 6th instant, and to transmit to you the accompanying abstract of their proceedings relative to the case of John Darby Shelley.

I am, Sir,  
Your very obedient and faithful Servant,  
JOHN POYNTER, *Clerk.*

*The Honourable Fox Maule,  
&c. &c. &c.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM THE HONOURABLE FOX MAULE TO  
THE CLERK.

*Whitehall, 18th November, 1840.*

SIR,

I am directed by the Marquess of Normanby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 6th instant, regard-

ing a statement made by Mr. Serjeant Adams, as to the treatment of John Darby Shelley, a criminal lunatic in Bethlem Hospital: together with your further communication of the 16th instant, enclosing an abstract of the proceedings of the Governors on the subject.

Lord Normanby desires me to inform you, that in order to satisfy the Committee, and to assure the public that the unhappy individuals in the Criminal Wing of Bethlem Hospital are properly treated, his Lordship will send two eminent Physicians to investigate the charge made by Mr. Serjeant Adams, that the patient, John Darby Shelley, had been subjected to harsh and improper treatment.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,  
F. MAULE.

*John Poynder, Esq.*  
*Bridewell Hospital.*

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE HONOURABLE FOX MAULE TO  
THE CLERK.

*Whitehall, 26th November, 1840.*

SIR,

With reference to my Letter of the 18th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Normanby to acquaint you that Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey have been appointed to make investigation into the mode of treatment followed in the Criminal Wing of Bethlem Hospital, and that they will attend at the Hospital for that purpose on Friday the 4th December, at twelve o'clock.

Lord Normanby will send a short-hand writer for the purpose of taking down the proceedings, and Mr. M. D.

Hill, of 61, Chancery Lane, will attend the investigation on the part of Mr. Serjeant Adams.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

F. MAULE.

*J. Poynder, Esq.*

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE CLERK TO THE HONOURABLE  
FOX MAULE.

*Bridewell Hospital, 27th November, 1840.*

SIR,

I am directed by the President, Treasurer, and Governors of the Royal Hospital of Bethlem, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday. They beg to say that they will have pleasure in receiving the Physicians appointed by the Marquess of Normanby for the purpose of investigating the treatment of the Patients in the Criminal Wing of the Hospital, on Friday next, the 4th December. The short-hand writer shall have every opportunity of taking down the Minutes of such investigation, but the Governors beg to submit that they do not feel authorized to admit Mr. M. D. Hill (who is not a Governor) to attend the investigation on the part of Mr. Serjeant Adams.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient humble Servant,

J. POYNDER, *Clerk.*

*The Honourable Fox Maule,*

&c. &c. &c.

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE TREASURER OF THE HOSPITALS  
TO J. H. CAPPER, ESQ.

*Bridewell Hospital, December 1st, 1840.*

MY DEAR SIR,

Since I had the pleasure of seeing you this morning, I have been with the President, who agrees with me, that if my Lord Normanby feels strongly upon the subject of the introduction of Mr. Hill on Friday next, that no objection should be made, though we cannot help considering that it is rather anomalous that the learned Serjeant, being the party making the accusation, should require counsel, when the accused have not the slightest intention of doing so. I shall therefore only further beg of you to assure the Marquess of Normanby that no impediment will be thrown in the way of the most searching inquiry, which either his Lordship or Mr. Serjeant Adams may think proper to institute.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours truly,

RALPH PRICE.

*J. H. Capper, Esq.*

COPY OF LETTER FROM J. H. CAPPER, ESQ., TO THE  
TREASURER.

*Whitehall, 1st December, 1840.*

MY DEAR SIR,

The Marquess of Normanby having consented to allow Mr. Hill to attend as the friend of Mr. Serjeant Adams, his Lordship takes for granted that no objection will be made to that gentleman's attendance on Friday, and will

consider Mr. Poynder's letter of the 27th ult. as cancelled. For granting this permission, Lord Normanby does not consider Mr. Hill's attendance in any other light than the friend of Mr. Serjeant Adams, and not for the purpose of cross-examining any parties belonging to Bethlem Hospital.

I am, my dear Sir,

Your faithful Servant,

JOHN HENRY CAPPER.

*Ralph Price, Esq.*

*&c. &c. &c.*

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Mr. Serjeant Adams then put in the following correspondence, which was read and ordered to be entered on the Minutes.

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COPY OF LETTER FROM THE HONOURABLE FOX MAULE TO  
MR. SERJEANT ADAMS.

*Whitehall, 18th Nov. 1840.*

SIR,

The Marquess of Normanby having received from the Governors of Bethlem Hospital a communication regarding a statement made by you as to the treatment of John Darby Shelley, a criminal lunatic confined within that establishment, I am directed to acquaint you, that his Lordship proposes to send two eminent physicians to investigate such statement; and to inquire whether you desire any person to attend the Governors on your behalf at that investigation.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

F. MAULE.

*Mr. Serjeant Adams.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM MR. SERJEANT ADAMS TO THE  
MARQUESS OF NORMANBY.

1, *Serjeants' Inn*, Nov. 20th, 1840.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

In answer to your Lordship's communication of the 18th inst., inviting me to send some person to attend the proposed inquiry, as to the treatment of John Darby Shelley at the Bethlem Hospital, I beg to inform your Lordship, that my friend Mr. M. D. Hill, of 61, Chancery-lane, has consented to attend on my behalf.

I am, my Lord Marquess,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

*The Marquess of Normanby,*

*&c. &c. &c.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM THE HONOURABLE FOX MAULE TO  
MR. SERJEANT ADAMS.

*Whitehall*, Nov. 26th 1840.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 18th inst., I am directed by the Marquess of Normanby to acquaint you that Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey have been appointed to make investigation into the mode of treatment followed in the Criminal Wing of Bethlem Hospital, and that they will attend at the Hospital on Friday, the 4th December, at twelve o'clock.

Lord Normanby will send a short-hand-writer, for the purpose of taking down the proceedings, and there will be no objection to the attendance of your friend Mr. Hill.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

F. MAULE.

*Mr. Serjeant Adams.*

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A Governor then asked, whether Mr. Hill consented to attend on the terms specified in Mr. Capper's letter ; when Mr. Hill replied, that the letter in question having so taken him by surprise, he requested a short delay to retire and consult with Mr. Serjeant Adams as to what course they should pursue ; and they withdrew accordingly.

Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey fully laid down the course of investigation they intended to pursue, and intimated to the Committee their opinion that it would be far better not to embarrass the inquiry with a lawyer's superfluity of questions, and of their desire to pursue the inquiry in their own way, by asking any questions, or seeking such information, as they might desire. And upon Mr. Serjeant Adams and Mr. Hill's return, the President directed the short-hand writer to read to them the opinion of Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey ; when Mr. Hill informed the Committee, that both he and his client having fully considered the letter sent by Mr. Capper, by direction of the Secretary of State, should decline taking any part in the proceedings of the day ; and they both accordingly withdrew.

The President then asked Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey whether they wished to be attended by the Physicians and Officers of the Hospital, and whether any of the Governors should accompany them ; upon which the Physicians expressed a desire that some of the Governors should attend with Dr. Monro and Sir A. Morison, with the Apothecary and Steward ; and Mr. Laurie, Mr. W. Pott, and Mr. Moore were the Governors nominated to attend : when Dr. Mayo, Dr. Southey, attended by the said Governors, and with Dr. Monro, Sir A. Morison, the Apothecary, Steward, and Matron, went through the various wards of the Criminal Wing : and also examined the provisions, and afterwards returned to the Committee-room, and examined the Physicians and resident Officers and servants of the house ; and Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey expressed their approbation of

the anxiety evinced by all parties to afford the fullest information; and stated, that having obtained all the requisite information for enabling them to report their opinion to the Government, they should not consider it necessary to attend again at the Hospital.

The inquiry terminated at four o'clock.

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| BRIDEWELL AND<br>BETHLEM HOSPITALS. | } | <i>At a Special Committee held at the<br/>Hospital of Bridewell, on Tuesday,<br/>the 12th day of January, 1841.</i> |
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THE PRESIDENT presented the report of the Physicians appointed by the Marquess of Normanby, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to inquire into the treatment of the patients in the Criminal Wing of Bethlem Hospital, together with a letter from the Marquess to the President, and also the President's reply thereto; when the Report and the two Letters were ordered to be entered upon the Minutes, as follow :

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COPY OF THE REPORT MADE BY DR. MAYO  
AND DR. SOUTHEY.

*London, 14th December, 1840.*

SIR,

In compliance with the wish of the Marquess of Normanby, which you did us the honour to communicate, we visited Bethlem Hospital on the 4th December.

According to our directions, we proceeded to inquire into the mode of treatment followed in the Criminal Wing, and to investigate fully the charge made by Mr. Serjeant Adams against the Officers of that Institution, of ill-using a criminal lunatic. We were accompanied round the wards by the Physicians, the Apothecary, the Steward, and two of the Governors.

We first examined all the bed-rooms of the criminal lunatics; the corridors in which they take exercise; and the keepers' rooms opening upon them, to which they have access during the day. We carefully examined their bedding, their means of washing, and the means adopted for the removal of filth. The result of our examination was very satisfactory. We noticed the fitness of the temperature, the perfect cleanliness of every part, the total absence of impure smells, and the sufficiency and goodness of the bedding. We visited the apartment No. 12, on the basement corridor, in which Mr. J. D. Shelley had been found by Mr. Serjeant Adams. We consider this apartment as very fit for its purpose of containing occasionally a very noisy or violent lunatic, in every point except the construction of its window. We conceive that some means, such, perhaps, as the insertion of a bull's-eye light into the shutter, should be adopted for preventing utter darkness in that apartment, independently of opening the shutter; since, if this is opened to admit light, it must also expose the inmate to the inclemency of the weather, as the window is not glazed.

We inquired into the principle of classification observed, and we found that this had reference to comparative noisiness or quietness, and to cleanliness of habits. This we conceive to be the most judicious method of dividing the lunatics here confined.

In next inquiring into their modes of passing their time and employing themselves, we observed that they were very orderly, and we took notice of an ingenious contrivance in the larger men's airing-ground for giving exercise. The duties of cleaning the apartments are also very properly given, as far as is compatible with their prior habits and station, to the criminal lunatics. The fe-

males are employed in needlework, and the male criminals have the use of books ; we saw also gloves and bags which had been made by them. But we suggest the expediency of carrying the principle of employment as much further as is possible.

We examined the food of the criminal lunatics, and were well satisfied with it. The bread, butter, cheese, beer, meat, and potatoes, were very good in kind ; and we entirely approved of the dietary.

We inquired into the relative number and distribution of the attendants, of which we approved. We learnt also with much satisfaction, that the other servants of the Hospital can easily be brought to bear upon this Wing, if necessary ; since we consider it of great importance with Lunatics, if refractory, that a great demonstration of force should be within reach, as this often prevents the necessity of its application, and thus averts violence.

We examined three airing-grounds, one for female criminal lunatics, the two other for males. We regret that the construction of the Hospital seems to make the allowance of greater space for these purposes difficult. The yard for female lunatics is small, so is that for the more tractable male lunatics.

We next inquired into the means adopted to restrain the criminal lunatics from violence upon themselves or others, from unruly or riotous conduct, and from dirty habits : the instruments used for coercion, if any, and the principles of their application contrasted with solitary confinement. Our observations, and the answers made to our questions, on these points, by the medical officers and attendants, were very satisfactory. We found the medical officers well aware of the advantages of solitary confinement, and disposed to apply personal restraint only on

those occasions on which experience and discretion warrant their use—namely, when without them the lunatic might injure himself, — remain in a state of personal dirtiness, or practise vicious habits; and when the alternative must be between coercion by mechanical means, or by the occasional use of force on the part of attendants. In the latter case, we conceive, that the struggles produced will be more likely to excite, irritate, and injure the patient, than the strait-waistcoat or similar measures judiciously applied, and not unnecessarily continued.

We were gratified by the fact, that, at the period of our visit, not a single lunatic was under such restraint, or required it.

In connexion with the branch of restraint, we proceeded to consider the case of Mr. Darby Shelley. In the course of our progress we found him on the basement corridor, the part appropriated to the most turbulent lunatics. He was walking about in a hurried manner; he was much excited, talking rapidly, and making incoherent complaints. But the circumstance of his being lodged in that corridor was not one of them. On the contrary, he expressed a determination not to quit that part of the hospital unless supplied with the means of writing, and allowed to communicate with Government—unless this were permitted him, he stated that he should become more noisy if restored to his apartment in the upper floor. “His mind,” he said, “would not bear it.” It appeared to us that Mr. Shelley was at that time rightly placed, and that occasional seclusion in a darkened chamber was likely to be requisite in his case.

With respect to the charges of Mr. Serjeant Adams, in relation to the treatment of Mr. Shelley, we conceived

them to fall principally under four heads, to which we severally directed our attention.

1st. That Mr. D. Shelley had been unduly locked up in a dark apartment.

2ndly. That the periods of his detention in such an apartment had not been registered.

3rdly. That evasive language had been used by a keeper, in explaining the first of these charges.

4thly. That a keeper stated, that Mr. Shelley was removed to the apartment on the basement corridor for striking Mr. Nicholls, without appearing to be ashamed of this avowal.

These appear to us the main charges contained in Mr. Serjeant Adams' letter to the Morning Herald of November the 19th.

On the first of these charges we have to observe, that the confinement of Mr. Shelley in this apartment appears to us to have been infrequent, and for short periods of time. It is affirmed by the Physicians, who each of them visit all the patients at least twice a week, that they never found him locked up in his apartment, and Mr. Thomas states, that during the time in question, he saw him twice a day, never under such detention; Mr. Nicholls, the House Steward, saw him once a day, and is satisfied he was never locked in for more than an hour at a time. The keeper who is constantly with him confirms the statement of Mr. Nicholls.

We have in another part of our Report recorded our opinion respecting the entire absence of light in the apartment No. 12, in which he had been locked up.

With respect to Mr. Serjeant Adams' second charge, we learn that the practice of giving in daily returns of coercion or confinement, which are now made, had not commenced

at the period referred to by Mr. Serjeant Adams, namely, between September 28th, when Shelley was placed in the basement corridor, and October 11th, when the Serjeant saw him there. These did not commence before October 18th, having been, however, in preparation, as was satisfactorily proved to us, many weeks before; and coming thus into operation ten days before Mr. Serjeant Adams' first charge was made. We saw, however, two entries made in the Apothecary's Weekly Report Book, of confinement imposed on Shelley between September 28th and October 9th.

We cannot venture to give any comment upon the conversation which the learned Serjeant reports from memory, in the letter alluded to, as occurring between himself, Mr. Nicholls, and Mr. Thomas, on this subject. But we will not quit it without giving our highest praise to the system of daily reports of restraint and coercion now carried into effect.

3rdly. The supposition entertained by Mr. Serjeant Adams of evasive conduct in the attendant, as shown in his denying to him that Mr. Shelley had been *then* locked up in his room, though he applied his own key to the door when he opened it to admit the Serjeant, does not appear to us to warrant the inference. For supposing the door to have been closed and not locked, though it was *possible* to open it without using the key, the movement was a natural one on the part of the attendant. For the bolt which projects on the outside of the door, having no handle, does not present an easy or obvious means of opening the door, particularly if it should be closely shut, or fit tightly. We think it our duty to notice this topic, though our remarks may appear obscure, unless read with Mr. Serjeant Adams' letter.

To the fourth charge, that the attendant avowed openly, and without appearing ashamed of it, that Mr. D. Shelley had been removed to the basement floor for striking Mr. Nicholls, we gave deliberate attention.

We had been led by our questions to believe that the Medical Officers fully appreciated, and impressed on the attendants, the distinction which it is important they should observe, between a system of judicious regulation, which should influence the conduct of the lunatics by supplying them with motives, and a system of punishment,—it being requisite that the lunatic should be as aware, as his malady will permit, of the consequences which a breach of rule may occasion to him; while, on the other hand, a system of punishment, in the ordinary sense of that word, must be inappropriate. Now, after carefully examining the Keepers, Medical Officers, and Mr. Nicholls himself, we are satisfied that the attempt to strike Mr. Nicholls was not even the *immediate* cause of Shelley's removal to the basement; but that it was one of many proofs of a state of high excitement requiring this change of abode, the most obvious and urgent of which was, his extreme noisiness, which made him positively injurious to the other patients. However the keeper in the basement story may have expressed himself, it is clear the superior officers of the Institution do not allow restraint as a penal measure; and in examining the attendant, we felt convinced that in using the expression, he did not intend to imply retaliation on the part of Mr. Nicholls.

We directed our inquiries towards the important duties of the Chaplain, and were well satisfied with the regulations laid down on this point. We understand that divine service is performed in the chapel three times a week, and

that the Chaplain promptly gives his attentions where they are considered expedient by the Physicians.

We have the honour, Sir, of transmitting to you this detailed result of our inquiries into the mode of treatment followed in the Criminal Wing of Bethlem Hospital, which, we trust, will satisfy the Marquess of Normanby, as it has convinced *us*, that the criminal lunatics are well and conscientiously treated. When the class of lunatics who are to be controlled there, is considered;—when it is remembered, that of the seventy-eight criminals now in that wing, twenty-nine have murdered, and twenty have attempted murder; that nineteen are thieves, and three house-breakers;—the difficulties opposed to their moral regulation, and the preservation of their life and health, are obviously extreme; and the credit given to those who have adequately performed these duties, ought to be proportionate.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servants,

THOMAS MAYO.

H. H. SOUTHEY.

*To the Hon. Fox. Maule,  
&c. &c. &c.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM THE MARQUESS OF NORMANBY TO  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOSPITALS.

*Whitehall, 4th January, 1841.*

SIR,

In forwarding to you, according to your request, for the information of the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, the Report of the medical gentlemen appointed by me to in-

quire into the condition of the lunatics in the Criminal Wing of that Hospital, I think it right to accompany that document with a few observations which have occurred to me on a very attentive perusal of all the evidence taken in the course of the inquiry.

It must no doubt be satisfactory to the Governors that the two physicians charged with this inquiry, who have had so much experience, should express themselves in terms of decided approbation of the greater part of the general arrangements of the Establishment.

It does not appear from the examination of Mr. Darby Shelley by the physicians, that he had felt the change of room at all as a hardship, having merely complained to them of necessary restraint, of quite a different description.

As, however, this investigation originated in a letter from the Governors to me, complaining in strong language of a statement made by Mr. Serjeant Adams, I cannot quit this part of the subject without stating candidly my impression, that if Mr. Serjeant Adams was led into error, (as it now appears that he was,) this was entirely owing to the conduct of one of the servants of the Establishment; and that it was most natural that he should leave the Hospital, on that day, with the impression that a state of things existed which demanded inquiry, and, if proved, correction.

It is impossible, I think, to read the evidence of Joseph Fellows, and believe it to be founded upon an accurate recollection of what actually passed between him and Mr. Serjeant Adams. It seems rather, as if, having no very distinct impression on the subject, he had adapted it to what he afterwards thought he ought to have said. He states, for instance, that in "conclusion," and "as a

*second* cause of confinement," he had mentioned "his attempt to strike one of the officers." Can any one doubt that Mr. Serjeant Adams' recollection is correct, and that he then *named* the officer threatened? How, otherwise, should Mr. Serjeant Adams have known who it was? The same keeper's action in applying his key, would have naturally led to the conclusion that the door was locked: and the fair inference from his direct, though somewhat ambiguous, answer to the Serjeant's question, would be, that the patient had been in that apartment or cell for the time he stated.

The Governors will rejoice that the result of this inquiry must be, to impress upon the servants a more universal knowledge of the very proper distinction taken by the medical men, confirmed by themselves, and, I believe, acted upon generally by the officers, between necessary control or restraint, and arbitrary punishment.

I cannot omit this opportunity of impressing upon the Governors the want of sufficient means of employment which appears to be felt in the Criminal Wing, particularly amongst the Female Patients, who, by the Matron's account, seem sometimes to have very little to do. It would be desirable that they should have a regular supply of work suitable to their sex.

The construction of the apartment in which Shelley was placed seems very objectionable; inasmuch as it was either in utter darkness, or without any protection from the weather.

Whilst approving much of the new rule of nightly reports of restraint, I certainly feel some surprise, that it should not have been earlier in practice in so well established an Asylum; as, from my personal inspection of many similar institutions in this country and Ireland, I

believe it to be in very general use as a most salutary check upon abuses, to which all authority over those whose want of reason deprives them of the power of appeal, must be peculiarly subject.

I quite feel, at the same time, that the violent disposition (as shown by their offences) of those confined in the Criminal Wing, makes it absolutely necessary to take every precaution for the safety of those in whose charge they are.

I do not think it necessary in this stage of the business to enter into the question between the Governors and Mr. Serjeant Adams, as to the mode of conducting the inquiry ; but I should strongly recommend that that gentleman should be specially invited to attend at the Meeting at which the Physicians' Report is made.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

NORMANBY.

*To Sir Peter Laurie,*

*&c. &c. &c.*

*7, Park Square.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE MARQUESS  
OF NORMANBY.

*Park Square, 5th January, 1841.*

MY LORD,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter, with the Report of the Physicians appointed to inquire into the treatment of the patients in the Criminal Wing at Bethlem Hospital.

I shall lay the Report, with your Lordship's observations, before a Committee of Governors on the 12th instant, and

before the General Court on the 25th instant, to which Mr. Serjeant Adams will be summoned as a Governor of the Hospital, and I am convinced that it will afford them great pleasure to hear the very satisfactory Report which Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey have drawn up.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

P. LAURIE, *President.*

*The Most Honourable*

*The Marquess of Normanby,*

*&c. &c. &c.*

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WHEN IT WAS RESOLVED,

That this Committee receives with very great satisfaction the Report of Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey, and they will, with as little delay as possible, take measures for carrying into effect the recommendation of the Physicians as to increased means of employment for the patients generally.

AND IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Report in question be printed and circulated among the Governors, with the ensuing Court Summons, and that it be taken into consideration at the next Court.

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BRIDEWELL AND  
BETHLEM HOSPITALS.

} *At a Court held at the Hospital of  
Bridewell, on Monday, the 25th  
day of January, 1841.*

THE PRESIDENT laid before this Court three letters from the Marquess of Normanby to himself, relating to the Report of Dr. Mayo and Dr. Southey, and his replies thereto, which, with the several replies, were ordered to be entered upon the Minutes, and are as follow :—

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE MARQUESS OF NORMANBY  
TO SIR P. LAURIE.

*Whitehall, 16th January, 1841.*

SIR,

I am desirous of being informed by whose authority the Report of the Physicians as to Bethlem Hospital, forwarded by me at your request, has been published in this morning's newspapers, before it has been submitted to the General Meeting of Governors, and unaccompanied by my letter to you.

In that letter it must have appeared that I considered it a necessary condition, in complying with your request, that I should, at the same time, after an attentive consideration of the whole of the proceedings instituted at my desire, and for my information and decision, convey my own opinion upon many circumstances elicited by the evidence, and but imperfectly adverted to in the Report.

I cannot but consider it unfair that this Report should have been published before that General Meeting at which I had particularly recommended that Mr. Serjeant Adams should have been specially invited to attend: and I founded this desire upon my opinion that the circumstances which had been observed by the Serjeant were such as, at the time, thoroughly to warrant the impressions which he had then imbibed.

I am sure the Governors of Bethlem Hospital must desire to act upon the principle of doing ample justice to the motives and conduct of any one who gives them an opportunity of originating the most searching inquiry into any circumstances of a suspicious aspect, and must feel

that it is no unimportant part of such inquiry that there should be no premature or partial publication,—but that, at the proper time, the fullest and fairest communication of the result should be given to the public.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

NORMANBY.

*Sir Peter Laurie,*

*&c. &c. &c.*

*7, Park Square.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM SIR P. LAURIE TO THE MARQUESS  
OF NORMANBY.

*7, Park Square,  
January 16th, 1841.*

MY LORD,

I have the honour to acquaint you, in reply to your Lordship's letter of this date, that the Report of the Physicians as to Bethlem Hospital has not been published by the authority of the Committee, or of the President or Treasurer.

Your Lordship will observe that the Report has, by order of the Committee, been printed and circulated amongst the Governors, to enable them to take it into consideration at the next General Court: and it cannot be a matter of surprise that, with so extended a circulation, a Report so highly interesting to the public at large should be published in the newspapers.

Bethlem Hospital, with the exception of the Criminal Wing, is supported by private liberality, and rests upon public opinion, and every Governor must therefore be desirous, that so satisfactory a statement, made by the highest authority, should obtain the same publicity through the same medium as the accusations against us.

The Committee being of opinion, that the Report of the Physicians, founded, as it is, upon a careful and unprejudiced personal inquiry into the whole circumstances, should be sent to the Governors for their opinion, without comment or observation, is the only reason that your Lordship's letter was not also circulated.

Your Lordship does justice to the Governors of Bethlem Hospital in assuming that "they desire to do ample justice to the motives and conduct of any one who gives them an opportunity of originating the most searching inquiry into any circumstances of a suspicious aspect"—but I must be permitted to observe, that it would not only have tended to produce an earlier inquiry, but have enabled them better to appreciate the motives of Mr. Serjeant Adams, had that gentleman availed himself of his power as a Governor, of attending the weekly open Committee at Bethlem Hospital, to state his objections, instead of proclaiming them at a Court of Quarter Sessions, where no power rested of remedying defects, if any existed.

The Governors cannot but feel that this unusual course was calculated to inflict a very serious injury on one of the noblest institutions in the kingdom, and they must be proportionately gratified at receiving a Report, which certifies to your Lordship that the patients in the Criminal Wing "are well and conscientiously treated," and that, by effectually removing the erroneous impression, occa-

sioned by the statement made to the Magistrates of the County of Middlesex, enables your Lordship to accord to the Governors that credit which the Physicians appointed by your Lordship state "to be due to the adequate performance of their duty."

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

P. LAURIE, *President.*

*The Most Honourable*  
*The Marquess of Normanby,*  
    &c. &c. &c.

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE MARQUESS OF NORMANBY TO  
SIR PETER LAURIE.

*Whitehall, January 18th, 1841.*

SIR,

I should not have considered it necessary to protract the correspondence on the subject of Bethlem Hospital, merely for the purpose of stating that I conceive every part of your letter of the 16th instant to confirm my opinion of the impropriety of the publication of the Physicians' Report in its present shape, and at this period of the proceedings;—but there is one sentence of your letter which proceeds upon so complete a misapprehension of the nature of the inquiry, and the relative position of the parties, that I cannot pass it by without notice.

You state that "the Committee being of opinion that the Report of Physicians, founded, as it is, upon a careful and unprejudiced inquiry into the whole circumstances,

should be sent to the Governors without comment or observation, is the only reason why your Lordship's letter was not also circulated."

The object of the inquiry was to satisfy, not the Governors merely, but myself, who am officially responsible for the treatment of the Lunatics in the Criminal Wing, to which alone the inquiry was confined.

I appointed two gentlemen to collect evidence, and report it for my information and judgment upon it. After studying carefully the evidence so collected, I thought it necessary to accompany their Report with some additional observations, not only on the origin of the complaint, on which some stronger language had been used by the Governors in their letter to me than I thought was borne out by the course of the examination ; but also on the conduct of some of the servants, and the condition of the patients. It is true that the effect of those observations was to qualify, in some details of management, the approbation I should otherwise have been supposed completely to share. I regret that I felt it necessary to express those opinions ; but having done so, their effect will not be altered by any apparent attempt at their suppression. I am sure that the Governors would much regret such an appearance ; yet nothing could be more calculated to produce that effect than the ill-judged proceedings of the Committee, of which so strange an explanation is given in your letter ; as if my communication to you was the chance comment of an indifferent person, instead of the opinion of one whose imperative duty is to watch over and correct any abuses in the treatment of Criminal Lunatics.

Conceiving such to be the position in which I stand on this subject, I expect, of course, that my views will meet with proper attention, and therefore desire you will com-

municate the whole of this correspondence to the General Meeting of Governors.

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient, humble servant,  
NORMANBY.

*Sir P. Laurie,*  
*&c. &c. &c.*  
*7, Park Square.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM SIR P. LAURIE TO THE MARQUESS  
OF NORMANBY.

*7, Park Square,*  
*18th January, 1841.*

MY LORD,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of this date, in which you state that there is one sentence in my last letter which proceeds upon a complete misapprehension of the nature of this inquiry, and that the object of it was to satisfy not merely the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, but your Lordship.

Your Lordship will at once perceive that this misapprehension does not originate with me, as your Lordship will recollect that the inquiry was not only instituted on the suggestion and at the express desire of the Governors, but that in the letter of the Hon. Fox Maule, of the 18th of November, the following reason is given by your Lordship for acceding to our wish: "Lord Normanby desires me to inform you, that in order to satisfy the Committee, and to assure the public, that the unhappy individuals in the Criminal Wing are properly treated, his Lordship will send

two eminent Physicians to investigate the charge made by Mr. Serjeant Adams, that the patient, John Darby Shelley, has been subjected to harsh and improper treatment."

I cannot doubt that your Lordship will share in the satisfaction with which "the Committee and the public" have received the very able Report of the two eminent Physicians appointed by your Lordship to investigate this charge, which justifies that confidence so long reposed in us by Her Majesty's Government.

Nothing can be farther from the intention or the wish of the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, than to suppress the observations of your Lordship, which I laid before the Committee, and were entered on the Journals, as is the case with every communication addressed to me as President; and those, together with this correspondence, will, as of course, be submitted to the consideration of the General Court, on the 25th instant.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,  
Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,  
P. LAURIE, *President.*

*The Most Honourable*  
*The Marquess of Normanby,*  
*&c. &c. &c.*

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COPY OF LETTER FROM LORD NORMANBY TO SIR P. LAURIE.

*Whitehall, 20th January, 1841.*

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of your letter of the 18th instant. I am at a loss to conceive with what view you quote the extract from the letter of Mr. Fox Maule of the 18th November, because, far from

confirming the misapprehension under which you seem still to labour, it shows, as I have always felt, that the inquiry originated in a laudable desire on the part of the Governors to refer the case for my decision, upon information to be collected and reported to me; as the Governors naturally felt that nothing could so much tend to re-assure the public in regard to the treatment of the criminal lunatics, as the opinion of the person responsible to the country for that treatment. The institution of the inquiry was satisfactory to the Governors, because they looked to its result being satisfactory to me. The opinion I had formed I forwarded to you on the 4th instant, with the Report made to me, and the evidence on which it was founded; and this letter of mine the Committee thought it proper to withhold for the time, upon the strange ground, as stated by you, that it consisted of comments or observations, of which it was better that the Governors should at present remain in ignorance. It was not to be expected that the existence of such a document could remain unknown; and therefore it is not matter of surprise if the general belief is, that if that opinion had been altogether satisfactory to the Committee, it would now have been circulated, and consequently published, with the Report which accompanied it. The result of this injudicious course on the part of the Committee has therefore been, that with the appearance of attempt at concealment, they have created an impression that my opinion was more generally unfavourable than it really was; nor, unless these errors are corrected at the General Meeting of the Governors, will it be held that the subsequent proceedings have been conducted in the spirit of the letter of the Treasurer, of the 1st of December, quoted in the course of the investigation, which gave the assurance that

no impediment should be thrown in the way of the most searching inquiry I might think proper to institute.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

NORMANBY.

*Sir Peter Laurie,*

*&c. &c. &c.*

*7, Park Square.*

COPY OF LETTER FROM SIR P. LAURIE TO THE MARQUESS  
OF NORMANBY.

*7, Park Square,*

*20th January, 1841.*

MY LORD,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of this date, which I shall not fail to lay before the Governors of Bethlem Hospital on the 25th inst.

As the General Court cannot but partake of your Lordship's anxiety for the removal of any "impression that your opinion was more generally unfavourable than it really was," I have no doubt that they will have great pleasure in meeting your views by printing your Lordship's observations with this correspondence, for the information of the Governors at large.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

P. LAURIE, *President.*

*The Most Honourable*

*The Marquess of Normanby,*

*&c. &c. &c.*

